

Jesse Smith of Rutland & Leicester and his family
by Francis Howcutt © 2025
This work is openly licensed via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Jesse Smith of Rutland & Leicester and his family

by Francis Howcutt



**St John the Evangelist, Caldecott
where Jesse Smith's parents were married¹**

¹ Image cropped from photograph by Mat Fascione, licenced by CC BY-SA 2.0.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St_John_the_Evangelist,_Caldecott_-_geograph.org.uk_-_561728.jpg
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>

| Contents | |
|--|------|
| | Page |
| Introduction | 2 |
| Caldecott | 4 |
| John & Ann Hill Smith - parents | 5 |
| Lois Smith & Daniel Morton – sister and brother-in-law | 6 |
| Jesse Smith & Sarah Waterfield | 7 |
| Mary Smith – sister | 9 |
| Appendix 1: Baptist chapels at Leicester | 9 |
| Appendix 2: Possible parents of John Smith | 10 |
| Appendix 3: Harvey Lane chapel | 11 |
| Appendix 4: 50 Crab Street | 13 |
| Appendix 5: Children of John & Ann Hill Smith | 14 |
| Appendix 6: The Waterfield family | 17 |
| Appendix 7: The Smith family grave | 18 |
| Appendix 8: Francis Smith (c.1758-1838) | 18 |

Introduction

This article is about the Smith forebears and the immediate family of my 3x great grandfather Jesse Smith. He was a son of John Smith and his wife Ann Hill Vicars who were married at Caldecott, Rutland in 1786.

The street names mentioned are all in Leicester. References to St Margaret, St Mary de Castro and St Martin concern the parish churches at Leicester with those particular dedications.

Research into the Smith family is impeded by two major factors:

- Smith is an extremely common surname. The 1841 census records about 984 Smiths living in Leicester registration district alone.
- Jesse Smith, his parents and some of their immediate relatives were non-conformists. Until July 1837 all marriages in England (apart from those of Quakers or Jews) had to be solemnised in Anglican churches and should therefore have been recorded in their registers. However, there was no legal requirement for children to be christened anywhere or for burials to take place in parish churches or churchyards. Leicester was a hotbed of religious dissent. In 1846, the town was home to 26 nonconformist chapels, with the Baptists alone having 13 chapels there, some details of which appear in

Appendix 1. Records do not survive for all the baptisms and burials that took place in the many nonconformist chapels that operated in the early 19th century. Baptist congregations did not christen infants at all; they often recorded the births of children born to members of their congregations but such registers may not survive.

Thank you to:

- The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland (referred to below simply as 'Leicestershire Record Office') for curating and making available historical documents.
- Internet Archive, FamilySearch and the National Library of Scotland for making freely available online digitised versions of books, maps, newspapers and other resources.
- Vision of Britain.org.uk which makes freely available a vast amount of historical material, much of which is copyright of the Great Britain Historical GIS Project and the University of Portsmouth.
- Lyddington Manor History Society whose substantial and very well-illustrated book '*Buildings and People of a Rutland Manor*' provides much information about the history of Caldecott and the neighbouring parishes Lyddington, Stoke Dry and Thorpe by Water.² Unfortunately, the book includes very few references to people with the Smith surname.
- Joanne Vigor-Mungovin for supplying the picture of Harvey Lane Baptist chapel which was originally published in '*And the organ fell heavily.....*', an article about the history of the chapel which can be found at her '*Our Leicester*' website.³

Internet links cited were checked on the date of this Introduction. If you find any that no longer work or whose destinations have changed for the worse, you may be able to find the material that the link previously led to by using the Wayback Machine.⁴

The maps were originally created by the Ordnance Survey and are no longer subject to copyright. They have been harvested from the website of the National Library of Scotland and are reproduced with its permission.

Francis Howcutt
20 June 2025
francishowcutt@gmail.com

Francis Howcutt is Digital Publications Editor of Northamptonshire Record Society.

Items he has uploaded to Internet Archive in a personal capacity are at:
https://archive.org/details/@francis_howcutt

His 'Northamptonshire Hearth Tax index 1673-1674' can be found at:
<https://www.parishchest.com/northamptonshire-hearth-tax-index-1673-1674-10546.php>

² A digital edition of the book is available free of charge from: <http://www.rutlandhistory.org/pdf/bprm.pdf>

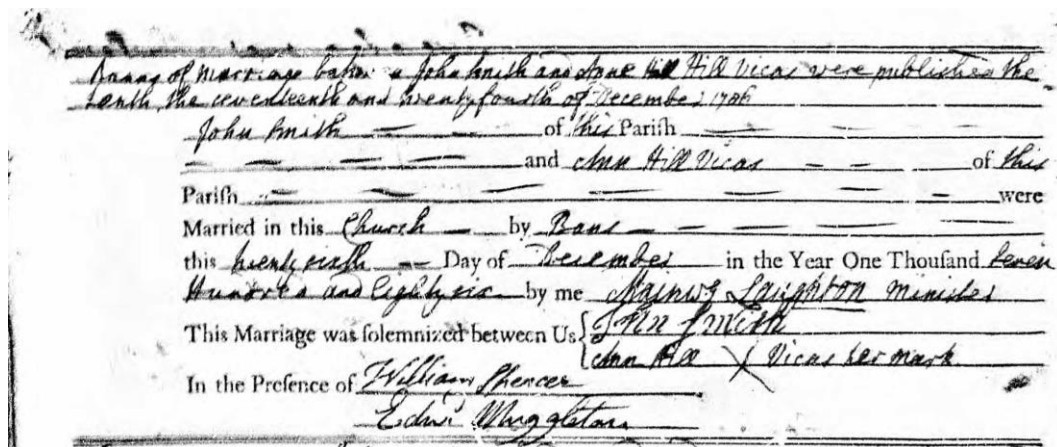
³ <https://www.ourleicester.com/fire-at-harvey-lane>

⁴ <https://archive.org/web/>

Caldecott

Caldecott is the southernmost village in Rutland, adjoining its borders with Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, and in 1801 was home to 306 people. The parish registers extend back as far as 1605 and contain numerous references to people whose surname was Smith. It is likely that many of them were not related to each other in an ascertainable way.

On 26 December 1786, John Smith and 'Ann Hill Vicas', both of the parish, were married by banns at Caldecott, John signed his name in the register and Ann Hill made her mark. It is not known whether the witnesses were relatives.



Ann Hill Vicas had been baptised less than two miles from Caldecott at Great Easton, Leicestershire on 26 February 1755. She is the only known child of Robert Cartwright Vicas and Jane Hill who had married, also at Great Easton, on 11 February 1751/2. John Smith's parentage is less clear. His age recorded as 78 in the June 1841 census and again when John died in March 1842 indicates that he was born early in 1763. We do not know how reliable this information was but if it was fairly accurate and if John was baptised as an infant at Caldecott, he would be one of these children whose baptisms as John Smith were recorded in the parish register (neither being recorded as buried at Caldecott when infants):

- 11 July 1762, son of Francis & Elizabeth Smith
- 12 August 1764, son of Jonathan & Elizabeth Smith

Further details of these alternative pairs of possible parents - Francis & Elizabeth Smith and Jonathan & Elizabeth Smith - are discussed in Appendix 2.

From 1688 onwards, nonconformist places of worship had to be 'certified' to the justices of the peace at the county or quarter sessions. John and Mary Hill were almost certainly part of the group of 'protestant dissenters' which on 16 July 1789 was certified as meeting in the dwellinghouse of Francis Smith at Caldecott, the individuals who certified this being William Smith, Jane Vickers and John Allin, who were presumably leading lights of the congregation.⁵ It is most likely that 'Jane Vickers' was the mother of Ann Hill Vicas and departed from the Church of England at some stage after her daughter was christened in 1755.

⁵ The National Archives: RG31/7 (Rutland Quarter Sessions).

John & Ann Hill Smith - parents

On 4 October 1811, John Smith and Ann Hill Smith (who was positively identified in its records as John's wife) were admitted to membership of Harvey Lane chapel, with a letter of recommendation from Gretton chapel. Appendix 3 provides an outline of the history of Harvey Lane chapel.

The building that is currently used by Gretton Baptist Church dates back to 1824 and so cannot have been where the congregation of which the Smiths were members met in their day. Gretton, though in Northamptonshire, is only three miles from Caldecott so it may well be that the couple were still living in the village where they had married until they moved in 1811 the 22 miles to Leicester.



Great Easton, Caldecott & Gretton about 1824⁶

John and Ann Hill remained members of the Harvey Lane chapel for the rest of their lives, but the surviving registers do not record any of their children being enrolled as members there. However, the Harvey Lane register does list the burial on 30 January 1825 of their grandson John Morton, aged nine months, who was a son of Daniel & Louis Morton of Crab Street.

On 20 November 1833, the Leicester Herald advertised the forthcoming auction of six houses and a plot of building land at Crab Street, one of the houses being in the occupation of 'Smith'. The identity of this individual is not certain but as Jesse had arrived at Crab Street by 1835 when he was listed there in the 'boot and shoe' section of Pigot & Co.'s Directory it is very feasible that either he or his father John was the tenant referred to. More details about 50 Crab Street are included in Appendix 4.

The Harvey Lane Membership Register records 20 February 1835 as the date when Ann Hill's membership was terminated by death, with the Register of birth, baptism and burial events adding that she was 75 years old – a statement not precisely consistent with her Anglican christening having taken place in 1755. The Membership register also states that John Smith (admitted in 1811) died in 1842.

⁶ <https://maps.nls.uk/view/257576834>



Harvey Lane Baptist chapel

There is no record in Caldecott parish register or the indexes to Rutland, Leicestershire or Northamptonshire parish registers of any infant children of John and Ann Hill Smith being baptised. However, the evidence and reasoning in Appendix 5 support the firm conclusion that they were the parents of these children:

| Name | Born | Married | Died |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Lois | c.1788 | Daniel Morton 1824 | 1843 Leicester |
| Jesse | c.1791 Caldecott | Sarah Waterfield 1819 | 1852 Leicester |
| Mary | c.1794 Caldecott | n/a | 1862 Leicester |

There may well have been other offspring in the family.

On 6 March 1842, John Smith a cordwainer aged 78 died at Crab Street of '*decay of nature*'. The death was registered two days later, the informant being Sarah Smith of Crab Street who was present at the death. No record has been found of his burial or that of his wife.

Lois Smith & Daniel Morton – sister and brother-in-law

The 1851 census confirms that Lois had been the sister of Mary Smith, whose own death certificate states that her father was John Smith, a shoemaker.

On 23 February 1824, Daniel Morton and Lois Smith (both of the parish) were married at St Margaret. Neither had previously been married and both made their marks in the register.

The children of Lois and Daniel who have been identified are:

| Name | Born | Married | Died |
|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| John | 1824 | n/a | 1825 Leicester |
| David | c.1826 | Susan Brown 1850 | 1905 Nottingham |
| Elizabeth | c.1828 | William Tayton Ellmore 1851 | 1895 Southend |

On 13 October 1842, 'Loius Morton' aged 54, the wife of Daniel Morton, a dyer, died of dropsy at St John Street. No record has been found of her burial.

The 1851 census records Daniel living at 9 South Church Gate along with his daughter Elizabeth and sister-in-law Mary Smith. Close neighbours at that time were his wife's nephew Francis Dalby (1821-1902) and his family at 13 South Church Gate.

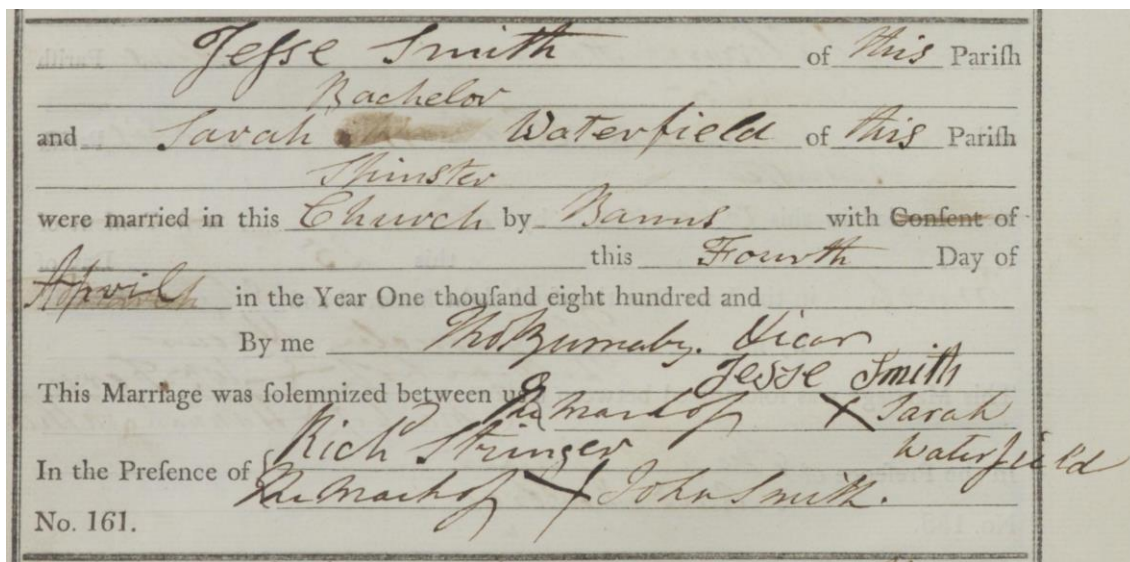
The 1861 census includes Daniel Morton amongst the inmates of Leicester workhouse.

Daniel survived until 1864. He was buried on 4 May of that year 'from Leicester Union House', in a common grave within the unconsecrated part of Welford Road cemetery. His age was recorded as 73 in the burial register but appears as 77 in the death registration index.

Jesse Smith & Sarah Waterfield

The census held on 31 March 1851 recorded that Jesse was born at Caldecott and was then 59 years old. The age reported when his death was registered in February 1852 was 60. These sources indicate that he had been born about 1791.

Jesse Smith, a bachelor, and Sarah Waterfield, a spinster, were married at St Margaret on 4 April 1819. Appendix 6 sets out information about Sarah Waterfield's family.



When Jesse witnessed the marriage of Daniel Morton and Lois Smith in 1824, he made a mark rather than signing his name in the register. This is not consistent with the clear handwriting of his signature when he married Sarah Waterfield in 1819, a discrepancy which may reflect a wish to avoid embarrassing Lois, Daniel and the other witness, all of whom made their marks.

No baptisms have been found for children of Jesse and Sarah, which indicates that although the children are not recorded as members of the Harvey Lane chapel, their parents had not moved over to membership of the Church of England. Perhaps the couple were members of one of Leicester's many other nonconformist congregations.

Eight of Jesse and Sarah's children have been identified from other sources:

| Name | Born | Married | Died | Indications of parentage |
|-------------|--------|----------------------|------|--|
| Lydia | c.1820 | Francis Dalby 1843 | 1893 | Marriage certificate states her father was Jesse Smith |
| Eliza | c.1821 | | | 1841 census records with Jesse & Sarah at Crab Street |
| Mary | c.1821 | | | 1841 census records with Jesse & Sarah at Crab Street |
| Ann | c.1822 | | | 1851 census of 50 Crab Street |
| John | c.1826 | | | 1841 census records with Jesse & Sarah at Crab Street |
| Charlotte | c.1829 | n/a | 1847 | Death notice names father as Jesse Smith |
| Jane | c.1833 | John Woollerton 1852 | 1867 | 1851 census of 50 Crab Street. Marriage register states her father was Jesse Smith |
| Fanny Maria | 1841 | n/a | 1846 | Birth registered with Waterfield as mother's maiden name |

The 1841 census did not record family relationships, so the parental links for Eliza, Mary and John are implied. Ann does not appear with the family in the 1841 census. Her age given in 1851 was 28, pointing to birth in 1822 or 1823. Therefore, it is possible that she may have been the same person as one of the children (who were probably twins) recorded with the names Eliza and Mary in 1841. The interval of about eight years between the births of Jane and Fanny Maria suggests that other children may have been born into the family.

Sarah Smith died of a '*diseased heart*' at 50 Crab Street on 6 June 1851. Her age was given as 49. Sarah Smith of Bread Street, was present at the death and recorded as the informant when it was registered on the following day. It is not known whether Sarah of Crab Street and Sarah of Bread Street were related.

Sarah was buried at Welford Road cemetery on 9 June 1851 (section H, plot 459, in the unconsecrated part of the cemetery). The first burial at Welford Road had taken place on 28 June 1849 and Sarah's was amongst the earliest interments, with the serial number 142. A summary of the history of the Cemetery has been placed online by the Friends of Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester.⁷

Jesse did not long survive his wife as he died, also at 50 Crab Street, on 14 February 1852. His age was recorded as 60 and the cause of death certified as '*influenza, bronchitis, exhaustion*'. Jane Smith of the same address made her mark as informant. Jesse was buried three days after his death in the same grave as Sarah. Details of all those buried in the grave can be found in Appendix 7.

⁷ <https://www.fowrcel.org.uk/history/>

Mary Smith (c.1794-1862) - sister

The death certificate of Mary Smith confirms that her father was John Smith, a shoemaker. Reasoning in Appendix 5 supports the conclusion that her father was the John Smith who had married Ann Hill Vicars in 1786 and also confirms that Mary was a sister of Lois Smith.

Mary's death took place at 6 Spring Gardens, Pasture Lane on 20 October 1862. She had been suffering from cancer. Ann Arnsby of 7 Pasture Lane who was present at the death informed the registrar. It is not known whether Ann was a relative.

Evidence pointing to when Mary was born can be found in these sources:

| Source | Age stated | Birth years indicated |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1851 census | 55 | 1795-1796 |
| 1861 census | 66 | 1794-1795 |
| 1862 death certificate | 68 | 1793-1794 |

Appendix 1: Baptist chapels at Leicester

In 1846, a total of 26 nonconformist chapels were recorded in Leicester.⁸ The names and theological persuasions of the 13 that were described as Baptist chapels are listed below. The numbers of burials taking place are those reported by the Cemetery Committee following a survey of the clergy and dissenting ministers of the town, as published in Leicestershire Mercury on 8 April 1843.

| Name | Persuasion | Burials per year |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Alfred Street | Calvinistic | |
| Archdeacon Lane | General | 40-50 |
| Belvoir Street | Particular | |
| Burgess Street | General | |
| Carley Street | General | 5 or 6 |
| Charles Street | Particular | |
| Dover Street | General | 10-15 |
| Friar Lane | General | 12-14 |
| Harvey Lane | Particular | 15 |
| Soar Lane | General | |
| St Peter's Street | Calvinistic | 4-6 |
| Vine Street | General | |
| York Street | Calvinistic | No burial ground |

⁸ *History, gazetteer and directory of Leicestershire etc* by William White, page 92.
<https://archive.org/details/historygazetteer00whitrich/page/92/mode/2up>

Appendix 2: Possible parents of John Smith

If John Smith who married Ann Hill Vicars in 1787 and born about 1763 was baptised at Caldecott, there are two possible records in its parish register.

- 11 July 1762, son of Francis & Elizabeth Smith
- 12 August 1764, son of Jonathan & Elizabeth Smith

Details of these two sets of parents are:

Francis & Elizabeth Smith

Caldecott parish register records the baptisms or burials of these children of Francis & Elizabeth Smith (no record of their marriage has been found):

| Name | Baptised | Buried | Notes |
|----------|----------|--------|--|
| William | 1755 | | |
| Mary | 1757 | | |
| John | 1762 | | |
| Benjamin | | 1764 | |
| Thomas | 1765 | | |
| Joseph | 1775 | 1861 | Maybe a child of other parents (see below) |

The burial of Francis' wife was presumably one of these at Caldecott:

- 14 November 1813 – Eliz. Smith of Caldecot, aged 75 [i.e. born about 1738]
- 2 March 1816 – Elizabeth Smith of Caldecot, aged 82 [i.e. born about 1733]

No record of the death or burial of Francis himself has been found. There is scope for confusion between him and another of the same name (c.1758-1838) who is recorded at Caldecott but for whom a birth or baptism record has not been found. Details that appear to relate to that individual are set out in Appendix 8.

Jonathan & Elizabeth Smith

The parish register of Little Oakley, a parish which although in Northamptonshire is only about eight miles from Caldecott, records the marriage by banns on 28 May 1763 of Jonathan Smith of Bulwick, a labourer, and Elizabeth Mason, a spinster 'of this parish'. Both bride and groom made their marks, as did the witness Mary Smith. This couple were probably the parents of the older and, quite possibly also the younger, of these the only two children of Jonathan & Elizabeth Smith whose baptisms are recorded in the Caldecott parish register:

- 12 August 1764 – John
- 11 July 1779 – John

If these children were siblings, the older would presumably have died by 1779 and so could not have been the husband of Ann Hill Vicars.

'Jonathan Smith of Caldecot, aged 83' was buried there on 29 February 1820, which indicates he was born about 1736. The burial of his wife was presumably one of the following recorded in the Caldecott parish register:

- 14 November 1813 – Eliz. Smith of Caldecot, aged 75 [i.e. born about 1738]
- 2 March 1816 – Elizabeth Smith of Caldecot, aged 82 [i.e. born about 1733]

Conclusion

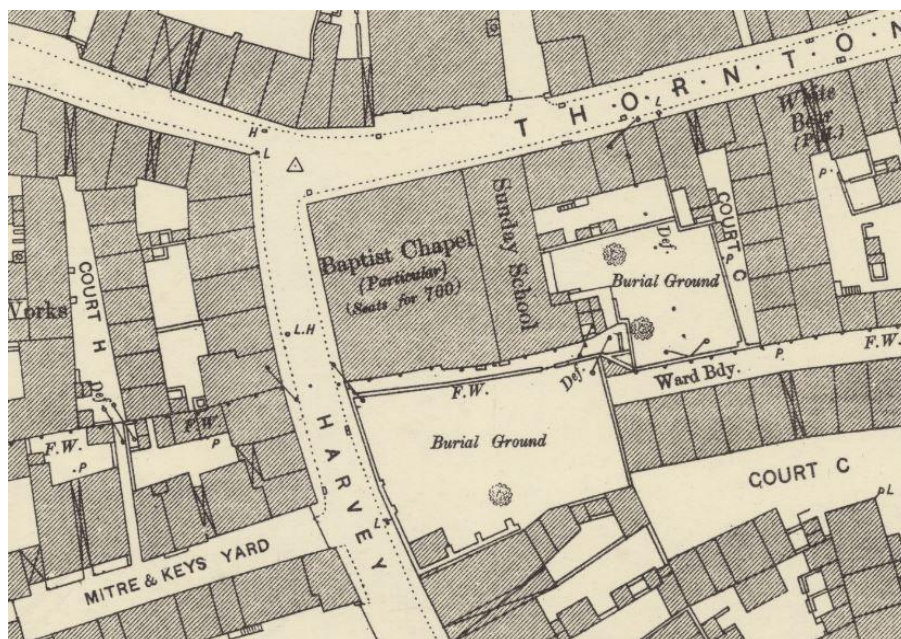
It is by no means certain who were the parents of the John Smith who married Ann Hill Vicars, not least because no record has been found of his birthplace. As for most of his life he was a Baptist, he may well not have been christened at all.

For these reasons, it is slightly more likely that he was a child of Francis & Elizabeth (baptised 1762) than of Jonathan & Elizabeth (baptised 1764):

- The Francis Smith at whose home dissenters were meeting at Caldecott in 1789 may have been the relevant father or, alternatively, a brother with the same christian name.
- The baptism in 1779 of a second son of Jonathan & Elizabeth who was called John suggests that the first child had already died.

Appendix 3: Harvey Lane chapel

The building used by Harvey Lane Baptist chapel at Leicester was constructed in 1760. It was situated in an area that has since been totally redeveloped for the formation of St Nicholas Circle. The 1885-vintage map below shows the location of the chapel and its burial grounds.⁹



⁹ <https://maps.nls.uk/view/229947603>

The congregation at Harvey Lane was of the 'Particular' persuasion, meaning that it held to the doctrine of predestination. Its surviving records include:

- Membership Register¹⁰
- Church Book, 1794-1867¹¹
- Another Register which contains some birth, baptism and burial entries during the period 1784-1844 but is probably not complete.¹²

Among the ministers in charge during the period when the Smith family attended Harvey Lane chapel was Rev Robert Hall (1764-1831). A notable and highly-educated individual, he was called to the ministry of Harvey Lane at the end of 1806 and remained there for some twenty years. Hall has been described as 'a great pulpit orator, of a somewhat laboured, rhetorical style in his written works, but of undeniable vigour in his spoken sermons.'¹³ Amongst his published works is 'A Sermon preached at Harvey-Lane, Leicester for the Benefit of a Sunday School', which is now freely available online.¹⁴



Rev Robert Hall in 1827

In 1845, the Harvey Lane congregation moved to newly-built premises at Belvoir Street which was designed by Joseph Hansom to accommodate up to 1,500 people. The premises at Harvey Lane were still used by a Baptist congregation when they were destroyed by fire in 1921.¹⁵

¹⁰ Leicestershire Record Office: 1D66/IV/1. This volume includes the membership register for Harvey Lane 1760-1845 (probably transcribed in 1896) and continues to record Belvoir Street membership 1845-1940.

¹¹ Leicestershire Record Office: 24D71/II/2

¹² Leicestershire Record Office: 24D71/II/4

¹³ Encyclopaedia Britannica, volume 12, 1911 edition.

¹⁴ https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Hall,_Robert

¹⁴ https://archive.org/details/per_early-baptist_a-sermon-preached-at-har_robert-hall_1814

¹⁵ 'And the organ fell heavily' by Joanne Vigor-Mungovin.

<https://www.ourleicester.com/fire-at-harvey-lane>

Appendix 4: 50 Crab Street

Crab Street (later renamed as St Mark's Street) ran south-east from Belgrave Gate to Bedford Street, a short distance to the north of the centre of Leicester. The properties there were mainly residential apart from the Rose & Crown public house, whose history is summarised on the 'Pub History Project – Leicester' site.¹⁶ On 20 November 1833, this advertisement appeared on page 3 of the Leicester Herald:

*TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY B PAYNE*

At the house of Mr. Townsend, the Swan-with-two-necks Inn, London Road, Leicester, on Tuesday the 26th day of November instant, at five o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will then be produced, unless sooner disposed of by Private Contract of which due notice will be given.

All those six very substantially built Messuages or Tenements, with the yards, gardens, and appurtenances, situated in Crab Street, leading out of Belgrave gate, in Leicester, now in the occupation of ----- Smith and others, together with a piece of Building Ground adjoining thereto, with frontage to Crab Street.

The Houses are in good repair, and the scite whereon they are erected, together with the said piece of ground comprises 830 square yards, or thereabouts.

NB. The Auctioneer is instructed to Sell the Property at what he considers a low price. – For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer.

The 1921 census recorded 50 St Mark's Street as a house with six rooms. On 21 October 1935, the Ministry of Heath approved the Leicester (St Mark's Street and Grove Street) Housing Confirmation Order 1935 which authorised the compulsory acquisition by the County Borough of Leicester of land for slum clearance. Among the properties affected was 50 St Mark's Road (reference number 588) which was not considered a slum but included as 'reasonably necessary for the satisfactory development or user of the cleared area'.¹⁷ The map below shows the south-east end of St Mark's Street, as surveyed by Ordnance Survey in 1885.¹⁸ The street numbers 40-50 (even) have been added to show the house numbers in St Mark's Street that were set out with a single owner in the 1935 compulsory purchase order's schedule and map. Those houses may well be the six that were offered for sale in 1833.



¹⁶ <https://pubhistoryproject.co.uk/2020/06/16/rose-crown-31-crab-street/>

¹⁷ The National Archives: HLG23/5720.

¹⁸ <https://maps.nls.uk/view/229947624>

Appendix 5: Children of John & Ann Hill Smith

Evidence that Lois, Jesse and Mary Smith were all children of John Smith and his wife Mary Hill Vicars is set out and discussed below.

6 June 1841 census

The surviving records of the census held on 6 June 1841 are those transcribed by an enumerator from the form that had been completed by (or on behalf of) the head of household. This process provided two opportunities for errors to be introduced – mistakes by the householder and also by the busy enumerator. The schedules for Crab Street do not specify house numbers but they do list, one after the other and living in separate dwellings, these two households:

First Household

| Name | Stated age | Occupation |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|
| John Smith | 78 | Independent |
| Mary Smith | 44 | Independent |
| Daniel Morton | 44 | Dyer |
| Lewies Morton (female) | 51 | |
| David Morton | 15 | |
| Elizabeth Morton | 12 | |

Second Household

| Name | Stated age | Occupation |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| John Smith | 45 | Shoe M |
| Sarah Smith | 38 | |
| Eliza Smith | 19 | [?] |
| Mary Smith | 19 | |
| Charlott Smith | 11 | |
| John Smith | 14 | Shoe |
| Jane Smith | 8 | |
| Fanny Maria Smith | [?] weeks | |

The birthplaces of the 14 people listed in these households were all ticked as having been 'born in the county'. However, inaccuracies found elsewhere in the records from that census cast doubt about whether the birthplace details at Crab Street were necessarily meticulously accurate for all concerned.

Further details of the inhabitants of the First and Second Households are:

People in the First Household in 1841

- On 6 March 1842, John Smith, described as a cordwainer aged 78, died at Crab Street. When the death was registered two days later, the informant was Sarah Smith of Crab Street.

- Mary Smith, described as aged 44 in the 1841 census was the same person who appears in the 1851 census as the 55-year-old spinster (born at Caldecot, Rutland), living in the household of Daniel Morton and described as his sister-in-law. In 1861, Mary Smith aged 66, an unmarried sempstress was living at 4 Spring Gardens. When on 20 October 1862 she died at 6 Spring Gardens, Pasture Lane, the certificate stated that Mary was a daughter of John Smith, shoemaker.
- Daniel Morton, by then a widower, was living at 9 South Church Gate at the time of the 1851 census, along with his daughter Elizabeth and also Mary Smith. The 1861 census records Daniel Morton as a widower aged 73 and an inmate of Leicester workhouse. Daniel Morton aged 73 of Leicester Union House, was buried on 4 May 1864 in a common grave at Welford Road cemetery (unconsecrated section A1, plot 306).
- 'Louis Morton', described as the 54-year-old wife of Daniel Morton, a dyer, expired as a result of dropsy at St John's Street on 13 October 1842. Daniel Morton of St John's Street, who was present at the death, made his mark when he reported the death for registration on the same day.
- David Morton gave the name of his father as Daniel Morton, a trimmer, when he married Susan Brown at St Margaret in 1850.
- Elizabeth Morton gave the name of her father as Daniel Morton, a dyer, when she married William Tayton Ellmore at St Margaret in 1851.

The FindMyPast index to its images of Leicestershire parish registers includes no record that could be the burial of either John Smith or Louis Morton, so presumably they were both buried in a non-conformist burial ground. Their most likely destination is that of Harvey Lane chapel which was receiving about 15 burials a year in 1843 but whose burial records are spasmodic.

People in the Second Household in 1841

- Fanny Maria Smith was definitely a child of Jesse Smith & Sarah Waterfield, as the mother's maiden name was recorded as Waterfield when Fanny's birth was registered at Leicester in June quarter 1841.
- Charlotte Smith aged 18 was described as a daughter of Mr Jesse Smith, Crab-street when her death on 16 August 1847 was announced in the Leicestershire Mercury five days later.
- The 1851 census of 50 Crab Street includes Jane Smith aged 17 as a daughter of Jesse Smith.
- Therefore, there is no doubt that the man recorded as 'John Smith' in the second list was really Jesse Smith and that 'Sarah Smith' was the former Sarah Waterfield.

30 March 1851 census

This census records the inhabitants of 50 Crab Street as:

| Name | Relationship to head | Condition | Age | Occupation | Where born |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------|-----|-------------|------------------|
| Jesse Smith | Head | Married | 59 | Shoe maker | Rutland Caldicot |
| Sarah Smith | Wife | Married | 49 | | Leicester |
| Ann Smith | Daughter | Unmarried | 28 | Dress maker | Leicester |
| Jane Smith | Daughter | | 17 | Glover | Leicester |

The preceding house in the list of households (at 48 Crab Street) was occupied by William Smith, a pensioner from the Royal Artillery who had been born at Marsden, Lancashire and

was accompanied by his wife and two children. William's distant birth place suggests it is unlikely that he was related to the family also called Smith who lived next door but originated in Rutland.

The 7 April 1861 census records Richard Cheney (born at Kilworth) and his wife as the only residents at 50 Crab Street. They do not seem to be related to the Smith family who had been living there in 1851, so it appears that Jesse's relatives departed from the house after his death but before the date of the 1861 census.

Relationship of the Smith family members at Crab Street

Her death certificate states that the father of Mary Smith (who the 1851 census recorded as born at Caldecott, Rutland) was John Smith, a shoemaker. There is no doubt that he was the individual with that name, about 34 years her senior, who Mary was living with at Crab Street in 1841. The 1851 census of 9 South Church Gate states that Mary was the sister-in-law of Daniel Morton, thus establishing that his late wife Lois Smith was also a daughter of John. The 1851 census of 50 Crab Street states that Jesse Smith was born at Caldecott. He was a witness at the marriage of Daniel Morton & Lois Smith and lived, apparently next door to the home of John Smith, Mary Smith and the Mortons, in the 1841 census of Crab Street. Combined with the fact that Mary and Jesse were both born at Caldecott but not baptised there, this is extremely strong circumstantial evidence that Lois, Jesse and Mary were all siblings.



**Gardeners Arms
225 Belgrave Gate
Crab Street to the left**

Appendix 6: The Waterfield family

John Waterfield & Sarah Hudsby

The 1851 census states that Sarah, the wife of Jesse Smith, was born at Leicester. Her age was recorded both then and when she died two months later as 49, which indicates birth between June 1801 and March 1802. This range aligns well with the record in St Mary de Castro parish register that '*Sarah daughter of John & Sarah Waterfield*' was born on 4 February 1802 and baptised on the same day.

The only other child of parents called John and Sarah Waterfield indexed by FindMyPast as baptised in Leicestershire during 1786-1824 was also recorded at St Mary de Castro as Mary (born 17 June and baptised 20 June 1804).

The only marriage of a John Waterfield and Sarah during 1783-1823 in FindMyPast's index to its scans of Leicestershire and Rutland parish registers took place at St Mary de Castro on 22 August 1803. On that day, John Waterfield and Sarah Hudsby, both of the parish, were married by banns, both making their marks in the register. The witnesses were John Mee and William Christian. The marriage date is later than the birth and baptism of their older child, but it is reasonable to conclude that the couple were probably the parents of Sarah and Mary. No other children of John and Sarah Waterfield have been identified.

On 24 August 1823, Mary Ann Waterfield and James Ball were married at St Margaret. Jesse Smith signed the register as a witness with the same handwriting as when he married Sarah Waterfield there in 1819. This strongly suggests that the 1823 bride was one of Sarah's close relatives and much more likely to have been her sister than have been another Mary Waterfield (daughter of John and Elizabeth Waterfield, born on 6 December 1805) who was baptised at St Martin on 6 January 1806.

It is not known when or where John and Sarah Waterfield (who married in 1803) died or were buried. It is possible that the reason for this and the lack of christenings of children after 1806 may be that they became nonconformists. In 1841, James and Sarah Ball's household included William Waterfield (in the 15-19 age group) who might have been Sarah's brother.

James Ball & Mary Waterfield

The only couple living at Leicester called James and Mary Ball who appear in the Ancestry index to the following censuses are shown in this table. In each year from 1851 to 1881, the birthplaces of both James and Mary were recorded as Leicester.

| Year | Man (age) | Woman (age) | Address | Notes |
|------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1841 | James (35-39) | Mary (35-39) | Gravel Street | Married |
| 1851 | James (50) | Mary (45) | Belgrave Gate (9 Barbers Yard) | Married |
| 1861 | James (61) | Mary (56) | Belgrave Gate (4 Old Cross Court) | Married |
| 1871 | James (72) | Mary Ann (66) | Court C 4 Belgrave Gate | Married |
| 1881 | James (82) | | Leicester Union workhouse | Married |
| 1881 | | Mary (78) | Belgrave Gate No 3 Court C | Married |

The 1891 census does not include anyone named James or Mary Ball with plausible ages. The only James Ball of a suitable age whose death was registered at Leicester during 1881-1891

was buried in a common grave (consecrated section B, plot 559) at Welford Road cemetery on 15 June 1883 aged 84, his abode having been Fleet Street. On 16 January 1888, Mary Ball aged 88 of New Park Street was buried in the same plot (the only other person with the same name whose death was registered at Leicester during the decade, was 81 in 1881).

Appendix 7: The Smith family grave

The grave at section H, plot 459 of the unconsecrated part of Welford Road cemetery has received these burials:

| Name | Date | Age | Abode | Notes |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Sarah Smith | 9 June 1851 | 49 years | Crab Street | |
| Jesse Smith | 17 Feb 1852 | 60 years | 50 Crab Street | Shoemaker |
| Jane Woollerton | 21 Aug 1867 | 33 years | Luke Street | |
| Sarah Woollerton | 27 Feb 1895 | 93 years | Preston Street | |
| Elsie Gregory Collins | 25 Feb 1901 | 12 months | Preston Street | |
| Ada Louise Gregory | 10 Dec 1903 | 8 weeks | 129 Willow Street | |

Appendix 8: Francis Smith (c.1758-1838)

It appears that many if not all of these events are connected with the same individual called Francis Smith at Caldecott.

19 February 1775 'Joseph son of Francis & Elizth. Smith' baptised (or he may be a child of the older couple who were also called Francis & Elizabeth Smith)

10 April 1798 'Elizabeth Smith' buried (Francis was probably her husband).

24 September 1798 Francis Smith, widower married Mary Muggleton, a widow, both of the parish.

20 June 1799 'Mary Smith' buried at Caldecott (probably wife of Francis).

27 December 1802 Francis Smith, widower married Jane Meas, spinster, both of the parish.

18 April 1838 'Francis Smith of Union Workhouse Uppingham, aged 79' buried.

No record has been found of the birth or baptism of this Francis Smith but it is very feasible that he may have been a child of Francis & Elizabeth Smith who had children baptised at Caldecott from 1755 onwards.